



Stephens City Newsletter

Volume 33 Issue 6

November and December 2014

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The Town Newsletter is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens; to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged. Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30a.m. and 5:00 p.m. or by mail: P.O. Box 250, Stephens City, VA 22655

Phone: 869-3087

Fax: 869-6166

Police: 868-1012

Website:

www.stephenscity.vi.virginia.gov



TOWN WELCOMES ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER

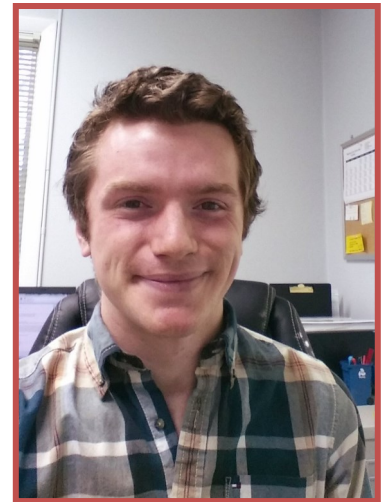
Michael Majher (23) was hired as the Assistant Town Manager for Stephens City and began working for the Town on September 22, 2014.

Mike is a native of Frederick County and graduated from Millbrook High School in 2009. He is married to Molly Majher who is a teacher at Millbrook High School.

Mike is also a graduate of James Madison University and has a degree in Public Policy & Administration and a focus in Management. Upon graduation from JMU, Mike worked for the Town of Bridgewater as their Coordinator of Public Works.

He will be working closely with the Town Planning Commission and Historic Preservation Commission as well as becoming familiar with all aspects of town operations.

We welcome Mike to Stephens City and wish him a long and successful career.



VOTER REQUIREMENTS

NEW FOR 2014

Voters must present one of the following acceptable forms of identification when voting—effective 7/1/14

- Valid Virginia Driver's License
- DMV-issued photo ID card
- Valid United States passport
- Valid Employee photo IC card
- Other government photo ID card
- Valid photo ID from an institution of higher education located in VA

If you do not have an acceptable form of identification, contact your local voter registration office for a free ID.

For more information go to sbe.virginia.gov or call 1-800-552-9745



Mayor's Office

Martha (Marty) Dilg is currently the Mayor of Stephens City. Marty was elected to the Town Council in 2010 and also served on the Planning Commission. She was appointed by the Town Council to fill the position of Mayor vacated by ex-Mayor Joy Shull-Gellner until January when the newly elected Mayor will take office.

TRASH COLLECTION

The Town intends to enforce the ordinance about trash collection.

Mike Kehoe, Town Manager

Get to the polls and vote for those who will represent you and your interests in local government.

Throughout the month of November, the Town will provide leaf collection. Do not include plastic flower pots with dead plants in with your leaves. Please place leaves in either plastic or paper bags at the curb where you leave trash on Monday mornings by 8:30am. Your leaves must be bagged! Piles will not be picked up.



at 8:30am



Veteran's Memorial Update

The ground breaking ceremony for the Veterans' Memorial was on held on June 6, 2014 and a dedication ceremony was tentatively scheduled for Veterans' Day, November 11, 2014. Due to a series of delays, it appears that the dedication ceremony may have to be postponed. Stephens City Council member Ron Bowers, who chairs the Veterans' Memorial Committee explained that the project was almost a quarter of the way there. The remaining construction is dependent upon availability of construction materials and the weather. Watch the town's website and the newspapers for updates on the date of dedication.

On the plus side, the foundation is completed, concrete

block construction has begun and the pad out front has been started. The Town has the two flag poles required for the memorial design and the five medallions honoring the five branches of the armed forces have already been received. Bricks for the monument are expected within the next few days.

The Committee wishes to remind everyone that brick sponsorship forms are still available at the town office and on line at the town's website. There is no time limit on the purchase of bricks and they will continue to be placed at the memorial in the future as they are received. Anyone can purchase a commemorative paver to be engraved with the names of veterans or actively serving military personnel for \$50.00. Also available as an additional fund raiser, are raffle tickets for the Mort Kuntzler print of "The Palace Bar".

Your continued support of the Veterans' Memorial is appreciated.

Why did I get Another Tax Bill this Month?

Currently, the Town of Stephens City sends out tax bills twice a year. The first bill you received was due in June and was for half of the amount of tax you owe for the year. The first half of the personal property tax bill included the decal fee for your motor vehicles or trailers.

The bill you will receive this month is for the second half of what you owe for this year. Please read your tax bills carefully. If there is a prior balance unpaid, you will need to add that amount to the current tax due in order to be in compliance. The new real estate tax rate of \$.106 per \$100.00 became effective July 1, 2014.

(Remember, interest is added each month to unpaid tax bills and leaves you open for DMV stops and liens against your property!)

The Town of Stephens City is a non-prorating jurisdiction. That is to say, any property you own on January 1st of each year is taxed. If you should acquire other property on any other day of the year, you will not be taxed on it until the following tax year. Likewise, if you move or dispose of your property (real estate, vehicles, etc.) throughout the year, you still owe the entire year's tax to the Town.

The value of the property both real and personal is set by the Commissioner of Revenue, Frederick County. Based upon the value their office assesses, Stephens City applies the tax rate and that is how we arrive at the amount of tax you owe.

For Frequently Asked Questions concerning reassessment of values, please see this web site:
http://taxes.co.frederick.va.us/comm_rev/re_reassessment_faq.aspx

Newtown Heritage Festival 2015

The Newtown Heritage Festival Committee will be expanding the displays at the old school next Memorial Day for the Newtown Heritage Festival. The quilt show and wagon display were huge successes and folks have asked for more. One of the ways we would like to grow is to include home and hearth items. This could be rugs (hooked, braided or woven), embroidered and crewel pieces, cross stitchery, smocked clothing, etc. We would also really appreciate it if someone could demonstrate candle mak-

ing, soap making or cobbler skills. These items could be from another era or new.

Please contact Jacquetta Owen if you would like to loan us your precious items or skills. If you have other historic pieces that would enhance home and hearth, we would gladly include them in the display area.

Thanks,
Jacquetta Owen
540-869-1764

Newtown Heritage Festival Collectibles

There are still a few 2014 Festival collectible butter crocks available for purchase at the Town Office as well as some collectibles from prior years. The prior years' pottery can be yours at discounted prices. Stop by the Town Office to see what is left in stock and which one of these would make a beautiful gift for the holidays.

Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills for the bi-monthly billing period ended on Monday, October 20 and are due on receipt and no later than December 3, 2014.

On December 4, 2014 a 10% penalty is added. On December 10, 2014 service will be discontinued for delinquency. An administrative fee of **\$25** plus the full amount of the bill must be paid before service can be restored.

Just a reminder: for your convenience a night drop is available at the Town Office for dropping off

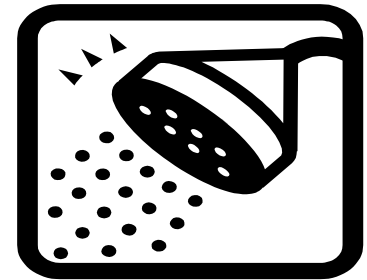
check or money order payments and payments can also be made online at the Town's website. ***It is important to note that, if you pay your bill online after midnight the day it is due, it will not be posted until two business days later.***

This means that the bill will be subject to additional penalties and/or shut off, if you use on-line payment at the end of the billing period. The Town does not accept payments over the telephone.

Water/Sewer bills can be paid using Visa, MasterCard or Discover

at the Town Office. If you pay a bill online after the due date, you will still be responsible for the 10% penalty and if the bill is paid after the shut off date, the \$25 administrative fee will need to be paid as well, prior to reconnection.

DO NOT PUT CASH IN THE DROP BOX!



Town Calendar of Events

NOVEMBER 2014

Nov.	4	Town Council at 7:30 pm
Nov.	11	Personnel Committee 5:00 pm
Nov.	11	Veterans' Day— Office Closed
Nov.	18	Historic Preservation Comm. 5:00 pm
Nov.	19	Public Works Comm 4:30 pm Water/Sewer Comm 5:30 pm
Nov.	20	Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm
Nov	24	Parks and Recreation Comm. 5:00 pm
Nov	25	Planning Commission 7:30 pm
Nov	26	Finance Committee 4:00 pm
Nov	27	Happy Thanksgiving—Office Closed
Nov	27	Public Safety Comm cancelled
Nov.	28	Town Office Closed

**** All meetings subject to change without notice w/ the exception of the Town Council meeting.***

DECEMBER 2014

Dec	2	Town Council Meeting 7:30 pm
Dec.	3	Water/Sewer Bills Due without penalty.
Dec.	4	Penalties are on Water/Sewer Bills
Dec.	5	Tax Payments due without penalty
Dec	9	Personnel Committee 5:00 pm
Dec.	16	Historic Preservation Comm 5:00 pm
Dec.	17	Public Works Comm 4:30 pm Water/Sewer Comm 5:30 pm
Dec.	19	Newtown Heritage Festival Committee at 7:00pm
Dec	22	Parks & Recreation Comm 5:00 pm
Dec	24	Finance Committee 5:00 pm
Dec.	25&26	Town Office Closed Merry Christmas
Dec.	30	Planning Commission 7:30 pm
Dec.	31	Office Closed 1/2 day
Jan	1	New Year's Day—Office Closed